



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

FEB 27 2014

Missouri Department of Transportation
ATTN: Randy L. Johnson
600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Dear Mr. Johnson:

RE: Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for I-70 Second Tier Draft
Environmental Impact Statement Participating Agency Collaboration Point

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the I-70 Second Tier Draft Environmental Impact Statement Participating Agency Collaboration Point. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The DEIS was assigned the CEQ number 14-0008.

The DEIS discusses and analyzes the environmental impacts of the no-action alternative and several action alternatives. The preferred alternative delivers general information about how DOT intends to replace existing infrastructure with emphasis placed on providing safety, improving the economy, and modernizing aging and dangerous roadways within Kansas City with minor, short-term adverse impacts and beneficial cumulative impacts.

Based on the level of impacts analyzed and conveyed in the DEIS the EPA has rated the DEIS for this project "LO" or Lack of Objections. A copy of EPA's rating descriptions is provided as an enclosure to this letter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding this project and your DEIS. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joe Summerlin at 913-551-7029.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jeffery Robichaud", is written over a circular stamp.

Jeffery Robichaud
Deputy Director
Environmental Services Division

Enclosure



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Draft Environmental Impact Statement Rating Definitions

Environmental Impact of the Action

"LO" (Lack of Objections)

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

"EC" (Environmental Concerns)

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

"EO" (Environmental Objections)

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

"EU" (Environmentally Unsatisfactory)

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potentially unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

"Category 1" (Adequate)

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

"Category 2" (Insufficient Information)

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

"Category 3" (Inadequate)

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.